

A communications system comprising a common device (e.g. an ATM physical layer (PHY)) and higher layer devices (e.g. an ATM layer and an AAL2 layer) are connected via a bus for communication of traffic therebetween, the bus comprising lines for carrying data and control signals. The bus supports data in ATM form and AAL2 form and the devices comprise discrimination means for discriminating between the two forms of data traffic. The data in AAL2 form typically comprises AAL2 mini-cells associated with a means of identification of the source or destination of the mini-cells.